

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004326

International filing date (day/month/year)
11.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
15.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07G1/00, G01G19/42

Applicant
TELLERMATE GROUP LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

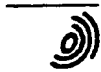
If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Stratford, C

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2268



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/GB2004/004326

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/GB 14 APR 2006

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Best Available Copy

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/004326

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3-13,15-31
	No: Claims	1,2,14
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	12,13,26,27
	No: Claims	1-11,14-25,28-31
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-31
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Best Available Copy

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/004326

101575664 14 APR 2006

Thus as the change in weight responds to climatic conditions, then so too will the recalibration interval.

- 1.6 It should also be noted that the recalibration would become necessary for any sample due to the 'creep' or 'drift' that all electronic scales experience. It is generally well known that, when there is no sample (i.e. only the tare weight is present), the scales autonomously correct for this drift to maintain a reading of zero. This is known as zero tracking, and the same principles will apply whatever the weight of the tare.
- 1.7 Concerning claims 16 and 31, it is known to provide a cash register with weighing means in the drawer to determine the amount of cash present (see e.g. D4). Electronic calibration of scales is generally well known and the current invention can be implemented merely by reprogramming existing scales. Consequently the skilled person would not be dissuaded from incorporating the teachings of D1-D3 into a cash register which already has cash weighing means.
- 1.8 D2 provides money scales with a 'calibrate' button which will recalibrate the scale for a current sample (p4 l.6-27). It is explained that this can be necessary because the humidity can affect the weight. It would be obvious for the skilled person to automate this process by having it carried out periodically, thereby increasing the user-friendliness of the scales.
- 1.9 D3 recalibrates the unit reference weight of the item to be counted after each successful weighing, again because humidity can affect the weight.
- 1.10 Claims 12, 13, 26 or 27 do not appear to be obvious in light of the cited documents. The skilled person would be led to recalibrate the scales according to time intervals or according to a detected change of weight of the sample. These claims instead define pre-empting the change in weight of the sample by detecting the cause (change in climatic conditions) directly.

1.0 With reference to point V

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents

- D1: WO 90/01683 A (PERCELL GROUP LIMITED) 22 February 1990 (1990-02-22)
- D2: GB-A-2 155 190 (CHERLYN ELECTRONICS LIMITED) 18 September 1985 (1985-09-18)
- D3: GB-A-2 270 986 (CASHMASTER INTERNATIONAL LIMITED) 30 March 1994 (1994-03-30)
- D4: US-A-4 522 275 (ANDERSON ET AL) 11 June 1985 (1985-06-11)

1.2 Claim 1 is not new with respect to D1 (Art. 33(2) PCT). This document (see abstract) discloses a method of counting currency notes (see in particular the process portrayed in Figs 5a-5c). The calibration is adjusted repeatedly by weighing the number of cash items (W_n , steps F56 and D57) and adjusting the calibration weight W_c . To do this the previous established weight (W_o) is used, thereby necessitating the storage of the current established weight (W_n) for use in the next weighing (see step F50 and description p23, l.32-35). The Figure depicts the counting routing performed by the weighing apparatus, and thus the calibration is autonomous.

1.3 This reasoning applies mutatis mutandis to independent apparatus claim 15. Claims 2 and 14 are also clearly not new.

1.4 The following claims fail to meet the requirements of Art. 33(3) PCT because they are not inventive. Claims 3-10, 12 and 17-24 appear to concern routine options for determining when such calibration events are to occur. It should be noted that the recalibration in step F50 appears to occur at each weighing cycle (step D1 of Fig. 3, p9 l.32), which is e.g. 10 times per second, as long as the current established weight differs from the previous established weight (decision D26 of Fig 5b), i.e. if recalibration is needed.

1.5 Furthermore, D1 recognises that the humidity of banknotes will slowly affect their weight and therefore the calibration weight is continually tracked (see p24 l.1-11).